

Aswan, Egypt

Remarks of the President and President Anwar al-Sadat Following Their Meeting, January 4, 1978

PRESIDENT SADAT. Ladies and gentlemen, morning.

I want to tell you that it is a very happy occasion for me and for my people, also, to receive our dear friend, President Carter, here on the Egyptian land. We would have liked that this visit would have lasted a bit longer, but we know his commitments.

We had a very intensive and fruitful talk upon the whole arena—in particular, the conflict here in the Middle East and the whole international position and our bilateral relations. I am very happy to say that our views were identical, and we have agreed upon certain steps to keep the momentum of the peace process.

All I ask is let us have in a very short time the opportunity to welcome President Carter and to show him the gratitude of my people and myself.

In the same time, may I say that in the peace process we welcome all the parties concerned. And they are welcome whenever they find it convenient to them, because this time, as I have already repeated before, we are heading towards peace and real peace in the area, permanent peace.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT CARTER. *President Sadat, people of Egypt:*

It is an honor and a pleasure for us to be in this great country, led by such a strong and courageous man.

Mr. President, your bold initiative in seeking peace has aroused the admiration of the entire world. One of my most valued possessions is the warm, personal relationship which binds me and President Sadat together and which exemplifies the friendship and the common purpose of the people of Egypt and the people of the United States of America.

The Egyptian-Israeli peace initiative must succeed, while still guarding the sacred and historic principles held by the nations who have suffered so much in this region. There is no good reason why accommodation cannot be reached.

In my own private discussions with both Arab and Israeli leaders, I have been deeply impressed by the unanimous desire for peace. My presence here today is a direct result of the courageous initiative which President Sadat undertook in his recent trip to Jerusalem.

The negotiating process will continue in the near future. We fully support this effort, and we intend to play an active role in the work of the political committee of Cairo, which will soon reconvene in Jerusalem.

